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SUBJECT: SPAIN'S CONDEMNATION OF THE AL-ASKARIYA SHRINE  
BOMBING

REF: SECSTATE 28802

(U) PolCouns shared President Bush's statement on the Al-Askariya shrine bombing and other reftel points with MFA DG for Middle East and North Africa Alvaro Iranzo on February 123. Later that day, MFA provided post with the text of the Spanish government's public condemnation of the attack. Following is post's informal translation of the GOS statement.

Begin text.

The Spanish Government strongly condemns the terrible attack that took place yesterday in the Mosque of al-Askariya in Samarra, one of the most sacred places of Shia Islam, as well as the consequent cycle of violence, and it (the GOS) regrets the loss of human lives and of Iraq's historical artistic patrimony.

The Spanish Government expresses its full support and solidarity with Iraq's authorities and people, and reiterates its most categorical condemnation of all terrorist acts that sow death and pain, obstructing the possibilities of peace in Iraq.

End text.  
AGUIRRE